

neiu.edu/undocumented



Undocumented Student **Resource Guide**

For Faculty And Staff. All Students Are Welcome Here.





Welcome

On behalf of the Undocumented Student Resources, formerly the Undocumented Students Project Committee, we are delighted to introduce to you our Undocumented Students Faculty and Staff Resource Guide.

The purpose of this guide is to provide you with information and resources so that you can better assist undocumented students and their families at NEIU. This comprehensive guide begins with an overview of the undocumented students in the U.S and provides a profile of undocumented students at NEIU including our admissions and financial aid guidelines and processes for undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, we have included federal and state legislation that is pertinent to undocumented students. This guide also includes a list of University and community resources.

It is our sincere hope that you use this guide regularly and help make NEIU a more welcoming and inclusive place for undocumented students and their families. We want to thank former President Sharon K. Hahs and all the vice presidents for creating the Innovation Grants which funded this project and all the deans, faculty and staff for their support in the development of this guide. Lastly, thank you for all you do on behalf of all our students.



Undocumented Students Project Committee

Daniel López, Jr., Former Vice President for Student Affairs, Project Leader
Katherine Greenslade, Former Coordinator, Undocumented Students Project
Hamid Akbari, Professor Emeritus College of Business and Management
Saba Ayman-Nolley, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology
Maureen Amos, Executive Director, Financial Aid
Lidia Filus, Chair, Mathematics Department
Christina Gomez, Former Professor, Department of Sociology
Maria Luna Duarte, Director, El Centro Campus

Erica Meiners, Professor, Education Inquiry and Curriculum Studies
Kyu Park, Former Associate Director, International Programs
Suleyma Perez, Executive Director, Government Relations, Office of the President
Angelica Rivera, Director, Proyecto Pa'Lante
Veronica Rodriguez, Director, Student Leadership Development
Luvia Moreno, Director, Undocumented Student Resources
Wojciech Wloch, Former Coordinator, International Programs

DISCLAIMER - The information and materials in this resource guide are general and informational only and do not constitute legal advice. This is not an immigration law guide. Immigration questions should be directed to a licensed immigration attorney. Furthermore, campus and legal information contained within this resource guide is subject to change at any time. Updates will be provided when possible, but faculty, staff and students should continue to update and educate themselves concerning the topics covered within.

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Section I:

Introduction to the Undocumented Student



Who are Undocumented Students?

The National Immigration Law Center defines an undocumented student as a person who entered the United States without inspection or government authorization, or entered with a legal visa that has since expired.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, there are approximately 125,000 undocumented youth who are reaching high school age, of those, 98,000 graduate from U.S. high schools every year. However, only 5-10% of those high school graduates will attend college, and more than likely, a community college.

The Immigration Policy Center has found that most college-bound undocumented students:

- have lived in the United States most of their lives
- have been brought to the United States by their parents at a young age
- have learned English
- have attended elementary, middle, and high school in the United States
- have excelled academically in high school and want to pursue a college education
- currently lack a way to become legal residents or U.S. citizens

Undocumented students have many of the same dreams and goals as their United States citizen peers but they often encounter challenges and barriers.

1) Undocumented students are not eligible for federal financial aid even though many come from low-income households and neighborhoods. Some states offer financial assistance with limitations while other states ban undocumented students from attending college. **2)** Undocumented students often work full time to pay for their education and to assist with family obligations. **3)** Because of their work schedules and family obligations, undocumented students have a difficult time utilizing academic support services and participating in co-curricular programs. **4)** They are not eligible for many internships, outside the classroom work or other learning experiences. **5)** Many of these students are first generation college students. **6)** They live in fear of deportation for themselves and their families.

How difficult it may be for an undocumented student to attend a college or university varies greatly from state to state. According to the National Immigration Law Center, at least twenty-one states allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition. These states are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington. The University of Michigan's Board of Regents adopted a similar policy for its campuses. Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama have banned undocumented students from enrolling in colleges and universities.

A growing number of states, including California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and the District of Columbia, and most recently, Illinois, offer state financial aid to students who meet certain criteria, regardless of their immigration status. California, Connecticut, Minnesota, and Utah allow public universities to offer private institutional aid or scholarships to students who pay in-state rates or graduate from their high schools, regardless of their immigration status. Utah recently established the Access Utah Promise Scholarship, which consolidates various scholarship programs. The University of Hawaii also offers financial assistance to eligible students, regardless of their immigration status.



In 2011, through the passage of the Illinois Dream Act, Illinois became the first state to create a private scholarship fund for undocumented students. 2013 is the first year that the Illinois Dream Fund Commission awarded scholarships. In 2019, The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act was signed into law. The RISE Act allows qualifying undocumented and transgender students to apply for state financial aid programs including the State of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP).

[VIEW MAP OF STATE LAWS & POLICIES ON ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION FOR IMMIGRANTS HERE.](#)

According to the Northeastern Illinois University Office of Admissions, in the fall of 2012, approximately 250 enrolled students marked the non-citizen box on the admissions application. That number was slightly smaller in the spring of 2013, with about 220 students enrolled who self-identified as undocumented. Similarly, In the fall of 2019, there were 281 undocumented students who self-disclosed their status, and a slightly lower number of about 220 students enrolled in spring 2020. However, we know that there are many more who may not have marked the box and for many reasons may not have disclosed this information.



DACA

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a type of discretionary administrative relief from deportation.

The purpose of the program is to protect from deportation eligible immigrants who arrived in the United States when they were children. In addition to granting qualified undocumented immigrants protection from deportation, DACA provides the right to work legally in the United States. DACA status expires every two years with the option to renew, providing that all requirements are still met, background checks are cleared, and the applicant pays a renewal fee of \$495.

In September 2017, the Trump Administration announced that it was terminating the DACA program. In the months following, there were multiple lawsuits filed across the country that challenged the Administration's actions to terminate the program, and federal courts ordered USCIS to continue to accept and process DACA renewals while the cases advanced through the legal process. In November 2019, the Supreme Court of the United States heard oral arguments on three consolidated Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) cases. The hearing came after the Department of Justice (DOJ) requested to fast-track the three cases that were pending at the lower federal courts (New York, Washington, D.C., and California), leap-frogging the standard legal process in

an effort to expedite final review of the matter. Now that the Supreme Court has heard oral arguments, a decision is expected any time before or by June of 2020, when the Court usually ends its term to break for the summer. A decision could permanently end the entire DACA program, including recipients' ability to renew.

It is uncertain when exactly the Court will announce its decision or what that decision will be, but it is critically important to prepare for possible outcomes and ready our Campus community to speak up in support of DACA recipients and the DACA program, no matter what the Court decides.

The education community is a critical ally in the fight to preserve DACA and advocate for undocumented youth.

Educators, school counselors, and faculty are the first line of support for the approximately 9,000 DACAmented teachers and hundreds of thousands of students who are vulnerable to detention and deportation. At the time that DACA was repealed in September 2017, 95% of the nearly 800,000 DACA recipients were either working or in school, with thousands enrolled at colleges and universities across the country. For the nearly three years that advocates have been fighting for DACA in the courts, the number of young people enrolled in DACA has fallen below 700,000 due to a variety of circumstances, including fear and misinformation about whether or not recipients can renew. As educators and leaders in higher education, it's essential to address the potential loss of this program and how it will impact students on campus.


According to the Immigration Policy Center, as of September 2019, there are 653,880 DACA recipients and an estimated 1,322,000 who are DACA eligible but can no longer apply. In Illinois, there are 34,330 DACA recipients and an estimated 67,000 people who are DACA eligible. According to the Pew Research Center, almost all current DACA recipients were born in Mexico or Central or South America (648,430, or 94%). Another 18,940 (3%) were born in Asia, followed by the Caribbean (8,350), Europe (5,190) and Africa (4,240).



Mixed Status Families

In addition to the thousands of undocumented students enrolled at colleges and universities across the United States today, there are many students who are United States citizens and come from mixed status families in which some of the family members, often parents but sometimes siblings, are undocumented. The Pew Research Center estimates that 9 million people in the United States are currently living in mixed immigration status families.

While citizen children from mixed families often share some of the challenges faced by their undocumented peers such as being first generation college students, living in poverty or low-income households and fearing deportation for their family members, they also experience additional pressures.



Not only does the family often rely heavily on the citizen child to navigate educational, social and economic systems for family members, they also place their hopes and dreams on that individual.

While these students are eligible for federal and state financial aid, they often do not apply because they are fearful of disclosing information about their undocumented parents.

United States citizen students who are 21 years of age or older may be able to apply for immigration benefits for their parents. However, often because of prior immigration violations, parents may be barred from returning to the United States for ten years, twenty years, or even permanently. Students who are over 21 years of age and interested in applying for their parents should speak to an immigration attorney.



Section II: Federal and State Laws

There are several federal and state laws that impact undocumented students. Those of particular interest include:

Federal Laws

Family Educational and Privacy Act (FERPA) – This 1974 law, also known as the Buckley Amendment, protects a student’s privacy rights regarding the disclosure of information contained in that student’s educational records. FERPA applies to elementary and secondary schools, colleges, universities and other educational agencies that receive funding under a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982) – This 1982 Supreme Court decision struck down a Texas statute that withheld funds for the education of undocumented students and allowed individual school districts to deny undocumented students admittance to public schools. The Court found that the Texas Statute violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment because the state could not show a substantial state interest was furthered because of the discrimination of a group of people due to their immigration status.

The application of Plyler v. Doe has been limited to K-12 schooling and protects the rights of all children, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, to a public education in the United States.

Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) – Enacted in 1996, this law amended and changed much of the immigration law that was current at the time. Of particular concern to undocumented students:

Section 301: Treating Persons Present in the United States without Authorization as Not Admitted: This section states that immigrants who are or have been unlawfully present in the United States for 180 days but less than 365 days will be barred from re-entering the United States for three years. If they are unlawfully present in the United States for 365 days or more, they will be barred from re-entering the United States for ten years. In certain circumstances, both of these bars are subject to waivers.



Additionally, while prior to 1996 only offenses carrying a sentence of 5 years or more could lead to immediate placement in deportation proceedings, IIRIRA made minor offenses such as shoplifting potentially deportable offenses.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) – Created by memorandum on June 15, 2012 and implemented by the Department of Homeland Security, DACA directs the use of prosecutorial discretion towards qualifying undocumented individuals who immigrated to the United States as children. Deferred action means “to defer removal” of these individuals from the United States. Qualifying individuals are granted deferred action for two years, subject to renewal, and are eligible for work authorization. However, deferred action does not give the applicant lawful immigration status nor provide a path to citizenship. In September 2017, the Trump administration announced the termination of DACA, but courts have kept the program alive for people who currently have or have ever held DACA status. The Supreme Court of the United States is expected to make a decision on the future of DACA any time before or by June 2020.

A person was DACA eligible for the first time if they met the following criteria:

1. Arrived in the United States before turning 16 years old;
2. Was under 31 years old on June 15, 2012;
3. Was physically present on June 15, 2012 (the day this directive went into effect) and on the day that they submit their application to USCIS;
4. Has continuously resided in the United States from June 15, 2007 through the present;
5. Entered the United States without inspection before June 15, 2012 or lawful immigration status expired before June 15, 2012;
6. Is currently in school, has graduated from high school, has obtained a high school equivalency certificate (GED) or has been honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces or the Coast Guard; and
7. Has not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor or three other misdemeanors and they do not pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Since the Spring 2013 semester, in partnership with organizations such as the Legal Assistance Foundation (LAF), Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA), Erie House, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), National Immigration Justice Center (NIJC) among other partners, NEIU provided informational sessions, free legal screening sessions for DACA, as well as DACA renewal workshops. Those who attended screening sessions met with an immigration attorney and discussed eligibility requirements and potential risks in applying, the application process, which documents are required, obtaining your school records, medical records, court documents, arrest reports or other documentation that may need to be submitted with a DACA application, how to file an application pro se (or whether it is advisable to get representation) and, if advisable, referrals to agencies with attorneys on staff, or private attorneys for representation.

For information regarding NEIU policies and procedures for hiring students who have been approved for DACA and have authorization to legally work in the United States, please refer to the section entitled “On-Campus Employment.”



U Visa - The U visa is a type of special nonimmigrant visa created for victims of certain crimes in the United States. An undocumented immigrant may be eligible for this visa if (s)he was the victim of a qualifying crime and (s)he cooperated with the police or prosecutor in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. The crime victim must demonstrate that (s)he suffered substantial physical or mental harm as a result of the crime, that (s)he has information about the crime and that (s)he is helpful, was helpful or is likely to be helpful to police or prosecutors. A conviction is not required in order to qualify for a U visa.

The U visa is often beneficial to undocumented immigrants because it provides a path to citizenship. The U visa lasts for four years during which time the visa holder is allowed to legally reside and work in the United States. Additionally, the visa holder may be able to adjust to legal permanent resident (LPR) status after three years. Once the immigrant becomes a LPR (s)he can permanently remain legally in the United States and typically after five years of legal permanent residence (s)he can apply for naturalization as a U.S. citizen.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – The Violence Against Women Act is a federal law signed by President Bill Clinton in September of 1994. VAWA accomplished many things, including the creation of special provisions in immigration law to protect victims of abuse who are not United States citizens. In certain cases of domestic violence, VAWA makes it possible for abuse victims to self-petition so that they do not have to rely on their abuser to obtain lawful status. There are three remedies under VAWA.

1. VAWA self-petition

To qualify an individual must be abused by: 1) his or her US citizen (USC) or legal permanent resident (LPR) spouse (or if that spouse has abused your child); 2) his or her USC or LPR parent (including a step-parent); or 3) his or her USC adult son or daughter (not an LPR son or daughter).

2. Battered spouse or child waiver

Individuals may be able to apply for a “battered spouse or child waiver” if (s)he has conditional LPR status as a spouse (and in certain circumstances as a child) of a USC or LPR, and the USC or LPR has abused him or her.

3. VAWA cancellation of removal

This remedy may be available to an immigrant who is abused by his or her USC or LPR spouse or parent (or has a child with the USC or LPR who is abused by him/her) and is currently in removal proceedings.



If you know of someone who may be in an abusive situation, help and information about shelters and other types of assistance is available. Please call the **National Domestic Violence Hotline. 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224.**

Asylum – Each year the United States admits a certain number of refugees seeking asylum who apply either while abroad or after arriving in the United States. In order to establish eligibility for asylum an immigrant must demonstrate that (s)he fears persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group and that the government is either involved in the persecution or unable to stop or control those who are.





Illinois Laws

HB 60 – Illinois House Bill 60 became law in May 2003 as Public Act 093-07. Under HB 60, undocumented students are considered Illinois residents for purposes of receiving in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities as long as they meet the following criteria:

- The student has lived with their parent or guardian while attending a public or private high school in Illinois
- The student graduated from a public or private high school in Illinois or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois (GED).
- The student attended at least three (3) years of high school in Illinois prior to the date the student graduated or received a GED diploma from the state of Illinois
- The student provides the university with an affidavit stating that the student will file an application to become a legal permanent resident (LPR) of the United States as soon as the student is eligible to do so

All undocumented students who wish to receive in-state tuition rates at NEIU must sign an affidavit attesting that they meet the above-mentioned criteria and return the affidavit to the Admissions Office. For more information regarding admissions policies and procedures for undocumented students, please refer to the Admissions section of this guide.

Illinois Dream Act – This act was signed into law on August 1, 2011 by Governor Pat Quinn. Illinois is the first state in the United States to create a private scholarship fund for undocumented students. The law makes scholarships, college savings and pre-paid tuition programs available to undocumented students who graduate from Illinois high schools. It also allows for the creation of the Illinois Dream Fund and the Illinois Dream Fund Commission.

What does all of this mean for NEIU's undocumented students?

1. Undocumented students who have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), even if they do not have a social security number, can now take advantage of Illinois' 529 college savings and prepaid tuition programs such as College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program, Bright Start and Bright Directions.
2. The Illinois Dream Fund Commission will gather contributions for the fund, publicize available scholarships and select recipients for those scholarships.
3. The Commission will also create and sponsor training programs for financial aid and admissions officers as well as high school counselors. Professional development materials distributed to high school counselors will be required to include information about university, college and other postsecondary options available to undocumented students.
4. 2013 is the first year that the Dream Fund awarded scholarships to undocumented students. The fund hopes to provide 300 scholarships to undocumented students attending both two-year or four-year colleges and universities every year.

SB 967 Temporary Visitor Driver's Licenses – This bill was signed into law by Governor Pat Quinn on January 27, 2013 and allows undocumented immigrants to get a driver's license in Illinois.

Section III:

NEIU Admissions and Financial Resources for Undocumented Students



NEIU has a long history of serving undocumented students

Prior to the passage of Illinois HB60 in 2002, which guarantees in-state tuition at public colleges and universities for undocumented students, Northeastern Illinois University was working with Chicago area high schools and community organizations to provide access to higher education and award private scholarships to undocumented students.

Although the University did not identify specific services for these students, many faculty and staff tried to assist undocumented students who revealed their status and to refer these students to campus and community resources when necessary.

To some extent, the passage of HB60 complicated the admission process for some students while helping many others. HB60 requires institutions to follow specific criteria to determine in-state tuition eligibility, including the completion of an affidavit affirming eligibility, a requirement that Northeastern Illinois University did not observe prior to 2002. As a result, some students do not obtain in-state tuition due to fear and confusion regarding the affidavit or other HB60 requirements they cannot fulfill.

Undocumented Support Programs and Resources

Northeastern has strengthened the services it provides for undocumented students over the years. Those initiatives include:

- **Admissions Application** - The admissions application, both paper and online, is more accessible and easier to complete. It also includes a non-citizen box under Citizenship Information, providing students with the opportunity to self-identify as undocumented.
- **Scholarship Opportunities** - Beginning the fall of 2011, the NEIU Foundation, as well as talent and merit scholarships, were made available to all qualified students, regardless of citizenship, opening the doors to more financial support for qualified undocumented students. Today, 100% of talent and merit scholarships do not require U.S. citizenship. A total of \$1.35 million is available to all qualified students. In addition, 96% of NEIU Foundation scholarships (\$115,200) do not require U.S. citizenship.
- **Undocumented Resilient and Organized (URO)** - In early 2012, Undocumented Resilient and Organized (URO), a student organization comprised of undocumented students and allies, was created to provide a voice and support to immigrant students attending Northeastern.
- **Undocumented Student Website** - In the fall of 2013, Northeastern Illinois University announced to provide more comprehensive information and resources for faculty, staff, students and community members.
- **Undocumented Students Innovation Grant** - In October of 2012, Northeastern awarded an Innovation Grant for the Undocumented Students Project. The purpose of the Undocumented Students Project was to provide information and support to Northeastern Illinois University's faculty and staff who work with undocumented students at all campuses. This project focused on undocumented students with an emphasis on the communities represented at Northeastern, including African, Asian, Latinx, Polish and other Eastern European countries.





- **DACA Information, Screening, and Renewal Sessions** – With the support of wonderful organizations such as Legal Assistance Foundation(LAF), National Immigration Justice Center (NIJC), Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA), Communities United, among many other partners, Northeastern has hosted free workshops. Students and community members have had the opportunity to meet with an immigration attorney and discuss the benefits and risks of applying for DACA, applying for the first time, and renewing their DACA. These services have been available both at the main campus and at El Centro Campus.

- **Undocumented Student Ally Training** – The undocumented student ally training was designed for NEIU faculty and staff with the goal of ensuring that everyone on Campus is able to understand and better serve undocumented students. This 2.5 hours training is offered twice a semester. Since April 2013, over 300 Northeastern faculty and staff have undergone the ally training. For more information about the ally training program, please reach us at undocresources@neiu.edu.

Admissions

Located in D-101

Enrollment Services comprises many departments: Admissions, Admissions Review and Processing, Registration, Records, Financial Aid and Graduate Admissions and Records. The Admissions Office works with prospective students by helping them to understand the application process. Admissions counselors work with First-Year, International, Returning Adults and Transfer students. The Counselors go over requirements for admission as well as answer general questions about major requirements.

The admissions process for undocumented students is no different than admissions for any student applying to the University.

The Admissions Process

An undocumented status has no effect on admissions, which is based on the student's academics and examination scores.

Applicants must submit an Undergraduate Admissions Application, application fee, official transcripts and test scores. Once all documents are received, staff in Admissions Review and Processing will review the file to determine if the applicants meet our established admission requirements. If so, they are sent an official admission letter and affidavit form. NEIU will accept students who are undocumented as long as they meet our admission requirements.

Tuition Rates and the Affidavit

Initially, all undocumented students are assigned non-resident tuition rates. In order to determine eligibility for in-state tuition, the student should fill out and submit the Affidavit for Eligibility for Residency Tuition which is included with their admissions letter. This form should be submitted within thirty days of the start of the semester in order to reassess tuition for the term.

Students must answer all questions and sign the affidavit. Once submitted, the Admissions Office will review the affidavit and high school record to determine if the student qualifies for in-state tuition per Public Act 93-0007. If so, tuition will be reassessed to in-state.



In order to better serve our undocumented student population and to comply with Illinois General Assembly Public Act 93-0007, NEIU created the Affidavit form for Eligibility for Residency Tuition, a simple and easy to use form for students who qualify for in-state tuition.

The Affidavit for Eligibility for Residency Tuition includes all of the relevant information that NEIU is required to collect and confirm in order to determine if a student qualifies for in-state tuition as stipulated by Public Act 93-0007 on an easy to read, one sided document.

The Affidavit form for Eligibility for Resident Tuition is sent with the admission letter, is an included part of the online admission application and can be printed when applying online. It is also available at our Admissions Office or the Enrollment Services front desk. **It is the student's responsibility to complete and return the affidavit form to avoid out-of-state charges!**

Financial Aid Office

Located in D-200

The mission of Northeastern Illinois University Financial Aid Office is to provide services and programs to all NEIU students in support of their education. Through the services provided, it is the department's intent to assist students in identifying funding suitable for their educational objectives. Through the programs provided, it is the department's intent to educate students on being credit smart in creating a budget, tracking expenditures, managing student loan debt and saving over time.

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) requires:

- U.S. citizenship (USC) status or Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) status (This means that USC and LPR students are eligible for FAFSA, even if their parents are undocumented)
- Eligible non-citizenship status as determined through G-845
- Conditional Resident status
- Granted Asylum/Refugee status
- Cuban-Haitian Entrant status
- Conditional Entrant status
- Battered Immigrant – qualified alien status (VAWA)

Without any of the above-mentioned statuses, undocumented students should not complete the FAFSA!



Completing the Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act and Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid requires eligibility for in-state tuition per Public Act 93-0007, that is, if the undocumented student meets all the criteria in the affidavit, the student is eligible to apply and may receive Illinois state aid. Learn more about the RISE Act [here](#).

Scholarships Office

Located in D-200

NEIU's Scholarships Office leads in promoting and awarding University institutional resources to deserving students, thereby lessening the financial burden that many students seek to overcome. Many of these scholarships do not have a citizenship requirement. Students are encouraged to apply during the early admissions application period. Personal statements and letters of recommendation must be provided. Other academic or community service based requirements may apply.

- Provost Scholarships
- Deans' Scholarships
- Foundation Scholarships
- Tuition Scholarships

Illinois Dream Fund

The Illinois Dream Fund scholarship seeks to create access to financial resources to further the growth and development of the immigrant leaders of tomorrow. With the generous offerings of private donors and in-kind donations, the Illinois Dream Fund Scholarship provides scholarships to undocumented students who are incoming freshmen or to current undergraduates who possess at least a 2.5 GPA (on a 4 point scale).

The Dream.US

TheDream.US is the nation's largest college access and success program for DREAMers, which believes that all that DREAMers need is an opportunity by providing them with financial support to attend one of their Partner Colleges, committed to their college completion.



Since 2016, Northeastern has been a proud partner of TheDream.US. Scholars receive up to \$29,000 for a bachelor's degree and a possible additional \$1,000 per year for books and supplies.

On-Campus Employment

Located in D-012

NEIU's Student Employment Office serves currently enrolled NEIU students who are seeking part-time, seasonal, temporary and on-campus employment. Job opportunities such as these assist students in meeting college expenses and/or gaining career-related experience. Certain on-campus jobs, such as Student Aide and Extra Help are open to all students who are enrolled at least half time and have eligibility to work in the United States; this includes Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA work eligibility. Undocumented students, including those who have been approved for DACA are not eligible for Federal Work Study positions. NEIU students can apply for jobs online.

Additional Information about On Campus Employment and Hiring Undocumented Students:

It often occurs that departments and offices across Northeastern's campuses



are interested in hiring undocumented students but are unsure if they are able to do so. Here are some general guidelines to help you determine whether an undocumented student can be employed in your office or department. If you have questions or concerns about hiring an undocumented student, please do not hesitate to contact the Undocumented Student Resources for more information.

1. Has the student been approved for DACA?

- a. If yes, then the student is able to work legally in the United States and can be hired by your department, UNLESS:
 - i. The job or program for which you would like to hire the student is federally funded.
 - ii. The source of the funds imposes citizenship requirements on those who can be hired.
 - iii. If no, then the student is not able to work legally in the United States and cannot receive a payroll check from NEIU.
 - i. However, there may be other ways to compensate the student for his or her work such as awards, tuition waivers and scholarships.

2. It is important to look at the source of the funds before you attempt to hire an undocumented student.

- a. Undocumented students are not eligible for and cannot participate in federally funded programs
- b. For example, if the position is a Work Study position, the undocumented student is not eligible for that position
- c. However, if the position is paid through Student Aide or Extra Help, you may be able to hire the student

Section IV: Selected Student University Resources



Mental Health and Wellness

Located in B-119

Reaching your academic goals can be difficult if you are suffering from emotional distress, relationship difficulties and other concerns. Counseling and therapy can enable you to understand and deal with those issues. It can free you to make clearer and healthier decisions. The mission of Student Counseling Services is to provide high-quality, inclusive, and responsive counseling services. You can use counseling to explore personal problems in your life such as: anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, sexual assault and abuse, grief and loss, anger, relationship concerns, and many other difficulties that may cause stress and disrupt your life. You can schedule an appointment at **(773) 442-4650** or at counsect@neiu.edu.

Undocumented Student Resources

Located in C-328

To alleviate the work that was initially done by the Undocumented Student Project committee, Undocumented Student Resources strives to continue addressing the concerns, needs and development of our undocumented students, and the faculty and staff who work with them on a daily basis. We do this by providing students with one-on-one life advising, connecting students with University and external resources, providing purposeful programming, training our faculty and staff, connecting with community based organizations and immigration experts, establishing connections with high schools and community colleges, and sharing our best practices with other institutions of higher education. To schedule an appointment contact undocresources@neiu.edu or **(773) 442-4601**.





Student Leadership Development

Located in B-159

Student Leadership and Civic Engagement offers students opportunities to become involved on campus through student organizations, leadership programs and service projects. Immigration status does not matter when it comes to being a leader. In fact many of our student leaders have been and continue to be undocumented students. They do not let their status get in the way of making their voice heard on campus. There is no limit to what kind of group undocumented students may join (honor societies, cultural organizations, Greek Life, media groups, etc.). Undocumented students have participated in Alternative Spring Break trips, service activities and leadership programs. Our office works with individuals to meet any specific needs or concerns they may have regarding their status as it pertains to their involvement in our programs. For more information on any of the programs, organizations, or how to get involved on campus contact sld@neiu.edu or (773) 442-4660.

Student Organizations

Undocumented, Resilient and Organized (URO)

Current website: URONEIU

Historical website: URONEIU Wixsite

The Undocumented Resilient and Organized (URO) Club began as an informal gathering of undocumented students during the fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters. URO is composed of undocumented and fellow students who can relate, commit and are able to come together. Since its formation, URO has joined the struggle to make NEIU a welcoming institution for undocumented students. The formation of URO was directly linked to the lack of reliable resources and support for undocumented students by the university. URO purposely chose to use the word Undocumented as part of its name to send a strong and bold message about the need to address this topic within public discourse in the university. As a result, URO created the space necessary for public dialogue and discussions related to immigration.

URO believes in the collective power and potential of students. URO demands the full access and participation in all resources and all programs at NEIU; no matter students' immigration statuses, including access to job opportunities, paid internships and assistantships, as well as any and all compensated work on campus. URO is more than just a student organization that advocates on behalf of undocumented students. URO is a space in which critical consciousness is being learned and expressed.

Career Development

Located in B-119

Career Development assists NEIU students and alumni in developing appropriate major and career options through individual appointments, assessments, job fairs, workshops, and many other on and off campus events. Some of the resources and services to Northeastern students and alumni, include: Assistance in choosing a major or career path, resume and cover letter writing help, appointments regarding interviews, job search strategies and networking, workshops, job fairs and other events, and building connections between students and employers. You can schedule an appointment at **(773) 442-4680** or at ocs@neiu.edu.

Graduation is Approaching....What's Next?

When working with and advising undocumented students, it is important to remember that while their status affects their opportunities and experiences at NEIU, it also impacts their career opportunities once they graduate. Many undocumented students experience frustration and a sense of powerlessness and futility when they realize that although they have a college degree, their status prohibits them from working in their chosen profession.

Although they may be unable to work in their chosen field at this time, encourage them to seek volunteer, paid or unpaid internships, and create research opportunities for them. These experiences will help them when the time comes that they are able work legally. But, keep in mind, undocumented students often experience financial difficulties paying for college and helping with family obligations. They may have limited time to devote to unpaid opportunities. You can help these students by getting to know them and talking to them about their schedule, personal and familial obligations, working with them to find a volunteer program or internship that meets their needs and provides them with valuable skills training and staying informed on state and federal laws that affect undocumented students.

If you are working with students who have been approved for DACA, they may be able to practice in their chosen profession. DACA recipients have been granted work authorization for a two year period and it is renewable. Help them navigate the job search process and create networking opportunities. If you or the DACA recipient you are assisting have questions about post-graduation employment, please do not hesitate to contact the Undocumented Student Resources at undocresources@neiu.edu.



Section V: Community Resources



Community

Northeastern Illinois University has many community partners who assist undocumented immigrants through resources and advocacy.

Our relationship with these community groups is invaluable as we strive not only to improve services for undocumented students but also to increase our advocacy for and retention of these students. To learn more about these resources visit our [Community Resources web page](#).

Section VI: Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

How does the university support undocumented students at NEIU?

It is important that NEIU provides an open and supportive campus environment for all of our students. Undocumented Student Resources has partnered with campus offices and departments, legal experts and community resources to ensure that undocumented students are provided with the resources they need to successfully complete their education at NEIU. In October of 2012, Northeastern awarded an Innovation Grant for the Undocumented Students Project. The purpose of the Undocumented Students Project was to provide information and support to Northeastern Illinois University's faculty and staff who work with undocumented students at all campuses. In the spring of 2013, the Undocumented Students Project added to NEIU's support for undocumented students through free DACA screenings, an Ally training program and the creation of a resource guide for faculty, staff and students. In 2014, The Division of Student Affairs at NEIU institutionalize support for undocumented students with the creation of position of Director of Undocumented Student Resources. The director provides students with one-on-one life advising, connects students with University and external resources, provides purposeful programming, trains faculty and staff, connects with community based organizations and immigration experts, establishes connections with high schools and community colleges, and shares best practices with other institutions of higher education.

For additional information about Undocumented Student Resources or other support services for undocumented students and their families, please contact us at 773-442-4601 or at undocresources@neiu.edu.

Does NEIU have any resources specifically for undocumented students?

In addition to the Undocumented Student Resources, Undocumented Resilient and Organized (URO), a student organization comprised of undocumented students and allies, was created to provide a voice and support to immigrant students attending Northeastern. URO is more than just a student organization that advocates on behalf of undocumented students. URO is a space in which critical consciousness is being learned and expressed. It is a place where individuals can speak out, raise their voices, challenge, resist and fight against injustices of all types and at all levels. To contact URO, visit their website or email them at uroneiu@gmail.com.

I'm undocumented. Is there a way to indicate that on my application when I apply?

Yes. Undocumented students should mark "undocumented" under Citizenship Information.

I've heard that undocumented students can receive in-state tuition at NEIU, is that true? What's the process for getting in-state tuition?

Yes. However, all undocumented students are initially assigned non-resident (out of state) tuition rates. In order to possibly change the tuition rate to in-state, the student should fill out and submit the Affidavit form which is included with their admissions letter. This form should be submitted within thirty days of the start of the semester in order to reassess tuition for the current term. Students must answer yes or no to all questions and sign the affidavit. Once submitted, the Admissions Office will review the affidavit and high school record to determine if the student qualifies for in-state tuition per Public Act 93-0007. If so, tuition will be reassessed to in-state.

I'm an undocumented student, am I eligible for FAFSA?

No. In order to be eligible for FAFSA, a student must be a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident (green card holder) or have one of the following immigration statuses: Conditional Resident, Granted Asylum or Refugee, Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Conditional Entrant or Battered immigrant – qualified alien (VAWA).

I'm a United States citizen but my parents are undocumented, am I eligible for FAFSA?

YES. United States citizen and permanent resident students with undocumented parents are eligible for FAFSA. If you have questions about how to fill out your FAFSA, please contact **The Financial Aid Office** at NEIU.

I heard that the RISE act is a new application for undocumented students in Illinois to apply for state financial aid. Can I apply?

Yes. The Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act allows eligible undocumented students and transgender students who are disqualified from federal financial aid to apply for all forms of state financial aid. The RISE Act or Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid provides a pathway for these qualified students to apply for Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants, the state's largest need-based grant program for low-income college students. The RISE Act also removed the 75-hour cap on Monetary Award Program (MAP) paid credit hours for freshmen and sophomores as of January 1, 2020. The overall maximum of 135 MAP paid credit hours remains in effect.

Undocumented students may be eligible to apply for the RISE if they meet all of these criteria:

- resided with your parent or guardian while attending an Illinois public or private high school;
- graduated from a public or private high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Illinois (GED);
- attended school in Illinois for at least 3 years as of the date the individual graduated from high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma;
- provide an affidavit stating that you will file an application to become a permanent resident of the United States at the earliest opportunity the individual is eligible to do so; and
- have not established a residence outside of Illinois.

Are undocumented students eligible for scholarships offered by NEIU?

Yes. Beginning in the fall of 2011, the NEIU Foundation, along with talent and merit scholarships, were made available for all qualified students, regardless of citizenship, opening the doors to more financial support for qualified undocumented students. Today, 100% of talent and merit scholarships do not require U.S. Citizenship. A total of \$1.35 million is available to all qualified students. In addition, 96% of NEIU Foundation scholarships (\$115,200) do not require U.S. Citizenship. In addition, the University offers two scholarships specifically for undocumented students: The Dr. Daniel Lopez Jr. Scholarship and the Aspire Scholarship.

As a former undocumented student, Dr. Daniel López Jr., Vice President of Student Affairs, understands the obstacles undocumented college students face and their challenges in obtaining private funds. Established by Dr. López, the Undocumented Student Fund supports expenses such as:

- Programs and services for undocumented students, their families, and allies in the community to educate on challenges, opportunities, and current issues as they unfold.
- Emergency financial help with DACA application fees, books, supplies, and other situations.
- Travel assistance for conferences.
- Helping undocumented students participate in classes or co-curricular projects.

The Aspire Scholarship is an endowed scholarship fund established by President Emerita Salme Harju Steinberg, Ph.D., and other generous donors as Northeastern's answer to President Obama's Dream Relief Policy and the State of Illinois' state version of the Dream Act. While undocumented students are eligible to receive most scholarships within the NEIU Foundation, the Aspire Fund has been created specifically to help undocumented students.

I'm undocumented and I'm interested in applying for the McNair Scholars Program. Can I apply?

Although undocumented students are not eligible to fully participate in the McNair Scholars Program because it is federally funded, NEIU's McNair program has made it possible to accept a couple of students from time to time by utilizing institutional funds. While undocumented students accepted into the McNair program are not eligible to receive the stipend offered, the staff provides these scholars with the preparation that any McNair scholar should receive from such program.

Are undocumented students eligible for private scholarship opportunities?

Yes. There are many private scholarship funds that do not restrict eligibility based on U.S. citizenship. For a list of scholarships visit our [Paying for College webpage](#).

Does NEIU accept undocumented students to its graduate programs?

Yes. Undocumented students who meet all other graduate program admissions criteria are welcome to apply to any of NEIU's graduate programs.

What is DACA? Where can I go for more information?

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and met several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible for work authorization. Deferred action is a use of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period of time. Deferred action does not provide lawful status.

Should I add to my admissions application the social security number that I was granted through DACA?

Students who have been approved for DACA are still considered undocumented.

Undocumented students are not required to provide a social security number. However, DACA approved students who are interested in campus employment as a student aid can add their social security number to their application.

It is also important to remember that social security numbers and work authorization provided by DACA do not change the admissions process and do not make a student eligible for federal financial aid or assistance.

I'm a DACA recipient. Does that mean that I can apply for FAFSA or any other type of federal financial aid?

No, unfortunately, DACA approved students are not eligible for FAFSA or any other form of federal financial aid. In fact, DACA approved students should definitely NOT file a FAFSA. Filing a FAFSA can have long term immigration consequences for someone who is not eligible. However, since January 2020, you may be eligible for state financial aid in Illinois if you meet the RISE Act requirements. For more information and to access the RISE act application, visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) website.

Can I work on campus as a DACA recipient?

Certain on-campus jobs, such as Student Aide and Extra Help are open to all students who are enrolled at least half time and have eligibility to work in the United States – this includes Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA work eligibility. However, undocumented students (or DACA) are not eligible for Federal Work Study positions.

Am I eligible for TRIO Student Support Services?

Unfortunately, undocumented students are not eligible to participate in TRIO. TRIO is a federally funded program and undocumented students are not eligible for the benefits from federally funded programs. DACA approved students, even if they have a social security number, are still considered undocumented.

I'm interested in applying for DACA but haven't done so yet. Can NEIU help me with my application?

Unfortunately, the Trump administration rescinded DACA in 2017 and no new DACA applications are being accepted. Only DACA recipients may be able to renew their permit every two years. Undocumented Student Resources may be able to help you pay for your DACA renewal or connect you with a reputable organization that can help you renew your DACA. Contact us if you need our help at undocresources@neiu.edu.

APPENDIX: Citations and Credits

Section I:

Introduction to the Undocumented Student

1. [National Immigration Law Center - Basic Facts Instate.](#)
2. [National Immigration Law Center - Education Access Took Kit.](#)
3. [Pew Research Center - Unauthorized Immigrants Enrolled in DACA.](#)
4. [Pew Research Center - A Nation of Immigrants.](#)
5. [Migration Policy - Unauthorized Immigrants Graduate US High Schools.](#)
6. [American Association of State Colleges and Universities - State Policies Regarding Undocumented Students.](#)
7. [Migration Policy - DACA Profiles.](#)
8. [Presidents Immigration Alliance - 2020 Guide for Higher Education.](#)
9. [Immigrants Rising - Defining Undocumented.](#)

Section II: Federal and State Laws

1. [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.](#)
2. [Illinois General Assembly - Legislation Bill Status.](#)
3. [Illinois Student Assistance Commission - Illinois DREAM Act.](#)
4. [Illinois General Assembly - Full Text of SB0957.](#)
5. Photographs page 10: "Law Books" by Mr.TinDC is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, and "Illinois State Capital dome." by rockman13 is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.
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7. Photograph page 13: "Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois" by myoldpostcards is licensed with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Section III: NEIU Admissions and Financial Resources for Undocumented Students

1. [NEIU - Admissions.](#)
2. [NEIU - Financial Aid.](#)
3. [NEIU - Scholarship Opportunities.](#)
7. [Facebook - Illinois DREAM Fund.](#)
8. [The Dream.US.](#)
9. [NEIU - Student Employment Opportunities.](#)

Section IV: Student University Resources

1. [NEIU - Undocumented Student Resources.](#)
2. [NEIU - Student Counseling Services.](#)
3. [NEIU - Student Leadership Development.](#)
4. [NEIU - Undocumented Resilient and Organized Historical Website.](#)
5. [NEIU - Undocumented Resilient and Organized Current Website.](#)
6. [NEIU - Career Development.](#)

Section V: Other

1. [Federal Student Aid - Apply FAFSA.](#)
2. [Illinois Student Assistance Commission - RISE Act.](#)
3. [NEIU - Paying for College.](#)
4. [NEIU - Graduate Degree.](#)
5. [NEIU - TRIO Student Support Services Membership.](#)
6. [NEIU - McNair Scholars Admission.](#)



neiu.edu/undocumented

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